REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and claims 17-30, as amended, are presented herewith for the Examiner's review and consideration.

The allowance of claims 20-27 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6 and 17 is noted with appreciation. Accordingly, claims 1 and 28 have now been amended to include the patentable feature of claim 6, while claims 6 and 17 were amended to be consistent with the amendment to claim 1. As no new matter has been introduced, these amendments should be entered at this time.

In view of the above, all rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, the entire application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree that all claims are patentable, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues in order to expedite the eventual allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/2/05

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